

Message Text

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SUBJECT: DANISH DEFENSE CHIEF COMMENTS ON DEFENSE AGREEMENT,
F-16 AND NATO AEW

REF: A. COPENHAGEN 4754 DTG 201700Z DEC 76
- B. SECDEF 4387 DTG 132113Z OCT 76

1. AS AGREEMENT OF THE DEFENSE BUDGET IS FURTHER DELAYED
WE WISH TO RE-EMPHASIZE THE CONCERN EXPRESSED BY SECRETARY
RUMSFELD IN REF B REGARDING THE PROPOSED DANISH DEFENSE
AGREEMENT. IT ALREADY APPEARS THAT REAL DECREASES IN
DEFENSE SPENDING DURING AT LEAST THE NEXT TWO YEARS
IN DENMARK IS INCREASINGLY ACCEPTED AS A FAIT ACCOMPLI.

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WE MUST REPEAT OUR CONVICTION THAT PLANNING FOR POSSIBLE
FUTURE INCREASES TO COMPENSATE FOR SHORT-TERM DECREASES
IS A RISKY COURSE OF ACTION FOR ALLIANCE MEMBERS,
AND DOES NOT ADDRESS THE VERY REAL IMPACT IT WOULD HAVE
ON OTHER NATO COUNTRIES. FORCE GOALS ARE SUFFERING NOW,
BUT IF THE DANES FAIL TO REACH A NEW SIX-YEAR AGREEMENT,

THERE WILL BE EVEN GREATER UNCERTAINTY AND INCREASED POSSIBILITY OF UNFORESBEN FUTURE REDUCTIONS.

2. CONCERNING DANISH PARTICIPATION IN THE NATO AEW PROGRAM, IT CONTINUES TO BE THE USG HOPE THAT THE DANES

WILL EVENTUALLY AGREE TO SHARE IN THE PROCUREMENT COSTS OF NATO AEW. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE DANES MAY NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO PROCUREMENT IN THE EARLY YEARS OF THE PROGRAM. HOWEVER, CONSIDERABLE FLEXIBILITY EXISTS IN THE PHASING OF PROCUREMENT PAYMENTS. INDEED, AS PROPOSED IN PO/76/136, WHICH WAS PRESENTED AT THE DECEMBER 8 DPC, SUBSTANTIAL DANISH PROCUREMENT FUNDING WOULD NOT BE CALLED FOR UNTIL CY 1982. THIS IN OUR JUDGMENT WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH DANISH INTENT TO INCREASE DEFENSE EXPENDITURES IN OUT-YEARS.

4. FURTHERMORE, ONE CANNOT CONCLUDE FROM COST GROWTH IN THE F-16 PROGRAM THAT SIMILAR INCREASES IN NATO AEW COSTS WILL OCCUR. THE TWO PROGRAMS ARE TOTALLY DISSIMILAR, IN THAT THE NATO (E-3A) PROGRAM IS BASED ON A MATURE AIRFRAME, AND BECAUSE THE MANUFACTURERS' COSTS ARE PREDICATED ON ON-GOING PRODUCTION OF US E-3A SYSTEM. THE SYSTEMS PROGRAM OFFICE THEREFORE HAS GREAT CONFIDENCE IN THE PROJECTED COST DATA.

5. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT THERE IS IN OUR VIEW NO RELATIONSHIP (EITHER IMPLIED OR ACTUAL) BETWEEN DANISH REQUESTS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING FOR NEW
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RADAR INSTALLATIONS ON BORNHOLM AND THE NATO AEW PROGRAM. WE DO NOT BELIEVE GROUND RADARS IN ANY LOCATION ARE A SUITABLE ALTERNATIVE FOR AEW, BOTH BECAUSE OF THE VULNERABILITY OF GROUND INSTALLATIONS AND BECAUSE OF THE UNIQUE TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES OF THE E-3A DOWNWARD LOOKING RADAR AND ASSOCIATED TECHNOLOGY. ADDITIONALLY, PLACING GROUND RADARS AT A VULNERABLE FORWARD POSITION SUCH AS BORNHOLM WOULD RENDER THEM EVEN MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO DESTRUCTION IN THE EARLY STAGE OF ANY CONFLICT.

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